

REMARKS

Amendments

Claims 1 and 2 are amended to overcome prior art, as discussed below.

Claim 7 is amended to correct a clerical error by removing the parenthetical reference numeral appearing in that claim, and is not amended for purposes of patentability.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over either GB 1518792 (Slee et al.) or GB 2042704 (Reichert) in view of either US 2006/0091827 (Chevalier et al.) or US 6580309 (Jacobs et al.). This rejection is respectfully overcome by amendment of claims 1 and 2 to require that the at least one LED of the illumination device is located inside the cryostat chamber.

Slee et al. describes providing a tungsten filament spot light on microscope 16 located outside of chamber 2. See Slee et al. at page 2, lines 74-78. Modifying Slee et al. by using an LED module on microscope 16 in place of the tungsten filament spot light does not achieve the invention of amended claim 1 because the LEDs will be outside of chamber 2.

Likewise, Reichert describes the use of a cold light source 7 mounted together with a stereomicroscope 6 on an optics carriage 9, outside of the cold chamber. See Reichert at page 3, lines 60-66 and Fig. 1. Modifying Reichert by substituting an LED module for cold light source 7 does not render the invention of amended claim 1 obvious because there is no teaching that an LED be placed inside the cold chamber for illumination.

For these reasons, it is now believed that amended claim 1 and its dependents 2-8 are patentable over the references. Removal of the rejection of claims 1-8 is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Slee et al. or Reichert in view of either Chevalier et al. or Jacobs et al., in further view of either US 2004/0032729 (Choi et al.) or US 6594075 (Kanao et al.). This rejection is respectfully overcome by amendment of parent claims 1 and 2 to require that the at least one LED of the illumination device is located inside the cryostat chamber. As discussed above, this limitation is not taught by the references alone or in combination. Allowance of claims 9 and 10 is respectfully sought.

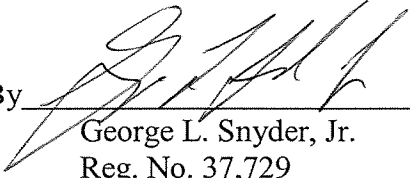
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Amendment and Response to Office Action
Reply to Office Action of Sept. 7, 2006

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully sought in light of the present amendments and remarks. If the Examiner has any questions, or the attorneys for applicant can assist in any way, the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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